



# **Borough of Thetford**



## **Annual Report**

of the

## **Medical Officer of Health**


together with the

## **Report of the**

## **Chief Public Health Inspector**

## **For the Year**

## **1970**



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## **STAFF**

Medical Officer of Health:

**A. Afnan, MD, DLO, DPH, LAH**

Chief Public Health Inspector:

**R. C. R. Robinson, MAPHI, ARSH**

Additional Public Health Inspector

**W. Dyke, MAPHI. (from 1st October 1970)**

BOROUGH OF THETFORD  
THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1970

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1970 on behalf of Dr. A. Afnan, who relinquished his duties as Medical Officer of Health in February 1971 to take up an appointment in Essex.

The Borough of Thetford covers 7,096 acres, and had an estimated mid-year population of 12,800, an increase of 1,160 persons over the previous year.

Taking the population as a whole, I am happy to be able to report to you that no calamity of any serious magnitude has occurred for the year under review. Indeed, the figures presented for your information on the following pages are for the main part almost identical to those for the previous few years.

Taking the gradual increase in population into account there is no worsening of the situation of the public's health as far as the limitations of statistical analysis can show us. Careful study will show an improvement very occasionally as, for example, in the number of cases of measles notified over the past 2 years compared with previous years. I think there is some justification in believing this is due to the new measles vaccine. At the same time, one should recognise that the notification of infectious disease is notoriously haphazard. Particularly is this the case for persons suffering from any form of bowel infection giving rise to diarrhoea. Many of these are mild and do not come to the notice of general practitioners. Most often again the causative culprit of the symptoms is in doubt and they are not notified. This makes the epidemiology of these diseases a very inexact science on many occasions. However, there can be little doubt that the standard of hygiene of food handling in many establishments leaves much to be desired. Apparently very few kitchen staff at present engaged in food preparation for public consumption are trained to think in terms of bacterial cleanliness, which is so essential for sound hygiene methods. Perhaps the recently introduced courses in our Technical Colleges on catering and hotel management will eventually produce some improvement.

The absence of catastrophies in the sphere of Public Health should not lull us into a sense of false security. Widespread outbreaks of disease are not only caused by germs. Very often the difficulty of reducing the suffering caused by such outbreaks is to find a yardstick to measure their magnitude. Since by the nature of things we all have to die of something, the figures relating to the causes of death are only relevant in the context of the age at the time of death. Thus we are well aware that the deaths which occur by accidents in the house and on the roads very often involve young people, and therefore are rightly treated with the utmost seriousness and every method possible is utilised to publicise the important causative factors. Some Councils have formed Health Education sub-committees to help propagate such information to their own people. Others have felt that such committees serve no useful function and indeed it must be confessed that their usefulness depends very largely on the enthusiasm and imagination of the individual members and co-opted members concerned.

Perhaps a more important factor than the numbers who die prematurely are the numbers who survive but suffer permanent disability. Since these invariably are many times in excess of fatalities but being less dramatic and not officially notifiable, they receive scant consideration by the public at large. I am thinking particularly of the number of middle aged people — predominantly men — who suffer from permanent disablement from heart disease or strokes. The "Cause of Deaths" from the Registrar General lists them as Ischaemic heart disease and cerebrovascular disease respectively and these together are the greatest causes of death. Both are due to degeneration of the walls of blood vessels. If those affected were all old people they would cause no great concern, but three important factors make them extremely noteworthy:



1. They are the principal cause of death in middle aged men.
2. Those who die prematurely are only a small proportion of those who suffer a terrifying experience from the same cause, many of whom are permanently disabled.
3. There is an ever-increasing volume of evidence to show that many cases, if not completely preventable, could be delayed until a much later age.

If all this is true — and I believe it to be so — why, we may ask ourselves, are we not doing something about it? The simple answer is that a lot is being done. All propaganda media possible — Press, Radio, Television, are constantly at work on this problem. I don't believe that anyone in this country has not heard that to be overweight is dangerous to health, that to take regular exercise is beneficial, that smoking cigarettes is harmful, that fatty food is best avoided, but vegetable fat (particularly polyunsaturated) is less harmful than animal fats. The problem is that the same propaganda media alternate this advice with even more forceful propaganda of how delightful most of the wrong things are! Jolly, rotund men in the thirties and forties chuckle comfortably when confronted with the dangers of being overweight, smoking, etc., and murmur bravely about having to die of something, secretly never believing for one moment that it could happen to them.

We must face the fact that to help those who would possibly suffer from disease of their heart or blood vessels prematurely we would have to alter the whole way of life of people from their third decade onwards to have any significant effect. However, I think it is important that we should continue to churn out our information and concentrate on individual rather than epidemiological success. Here again, Health Education sub-committees can do work of real value.

More exact scientific knowledge for healthy living in later years should probably start at school age, but it seems to me that this is still a very neglected topic in our child's education — at least in a manner designed to be of lasting benefit.

The increased scope and improved grants of the 1969 Housing Act has enabled many homes to be brought up to a higher standard than many owners could previously afford. There is no single environmental factor of greater importance to the public's health, both for mind and body, than good and adequate housing. Whilst it is disappointing that more people who could afford to do so have not taken immediate advantage of the improved benefits under the Act, those that have done so have been treated with utmost encouragement and sympathy by the members of this Council. As witness to this is the ever increasing flow of successful applications. This has greatly increased the work load of your officers, which they have undertaken on top of their other duties in the true spirit of the Act.

In conclusion, Sir, I would like to express my deep appreciation to your Health Inspector and his staff for their never-failing co-operation and ready help.

I have the honour to be  
Your obedient servant  
**R. D. HARLAND**

Local Health Office,  
Aspland Road,  
Norwich, NOR 19S.

TABLE 1      GENERAL STATISTICS

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Area in acres                 | 7,096    |
| Estimated Resident Population | 12,800   |
| Rateable value                | £582,852 |
| Sum Produced by a Penny Rate  | £2,675   |

Table    2      LIVE BIRTHS

|              | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate   | 127  | 116    | 243   |
| Illegitimate | 6    | 10     | 16    |
| Totals       | 133  | 126    | 259   |

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population: 20.2

TABLE 3      STILL BIRTHS

|              | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate   | 3    | 4      | 7     |
| Illegitimate | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Totals       | 3    | 5      | 8     |

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births: 30

TABLE 4      TOTAL BIRTHS

|              | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate   | 130  | 120    | 250   |
| Illegitimate | 6    | 11     | 17    |
| Totals       | 136  | 131    | 267   |

TABLE 5      INFANT DEATHS  
(a) Infant Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year)

|              | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate   | 1    | 5      | 6     |
| Illegitimate | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Totals       | 1    | 6      | 7     |

Infant Mortality Rate: Total                      27 (per 1,000 live births)  
                                 Legitimate                      25 (per 1,000 legitimate births)  
                                 Illegitimate                      63 (per 1,000 illegitimate births)

(b) Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants during first four weeks)

|              | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate   | 1    | 4      | 5     |
| Illegitimate | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Totals       | 1    | 5      | 6     |

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births): 23

(c) Early Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants under one week)

|              | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate   | 1    | 4      | 5     |
| Illegitimate | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Totals       | 1    | 5      | 6     |

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births): 23

(d) Perinatal Mortality (Still births and deaths under 1 week)

|              | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate   | 4    | 8      | 12    |
| Illegitimate | —    | 2      | 2     |
| Totals       | 4    | 10     | 14    |

Perinatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births): 52

TABLE 6 DEATHS (All Ages)

| Male | Female | Total |
|------|--------|-------|
| 53   | 57     | 110   |

Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population): 8.6

TABLE 7 CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

|                     | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Prematurity         | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Respiratory Disease | 1    | 4      | 5     |
| Accidental          | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Totals              | 1    | 6      | 7     |



TABLE 8 DEATH ACCORDING TO AGE GROUP

|                             | Male | Female | Total |
|-----------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Under 4 weeks               | 1    | 5      | 6     |
| 4 weeks and under 1 year    | —    | 1      | 1     |
| 1 year and under 5 years    | —    | —      | —     |
| 5 years and under 15 years  | —    | —      | —     |
| 15 years and under 25 years | 3    | 1      | 4     |
| 25 years and under 35 years | —    | —      | —     |
| 35 years and under 45 years | 5    | 1      | 6     |
| 45 years and under 55 years | 4    | 1      | 5     |
| 55 years and under 65 years | 9    | 7      | 16    |
| 65 years and under 75 years | 14   | 13     | 27    |
| 75 years and over           | 17   | 28     | 45    |
| Totals                      | 53   | 57     | 110   |

TABLE 9 CAUSES OF DEATH (All Ages)

|                                       | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System    | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus        | 1    | —      | 1     |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach           | —    | 3      | 3     |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus    | 6    | 2      | 8     |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Breast            | —    | 2      | 2     |
| Leukaemia                             | 2    | 1      | 3     |
| Other Malignant Neoplasms             | 4    | 4      | 8     |
| Other Endocrine Etc. Diseases         | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Anaemias                              | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Hypertensive Disease                  | 1    | 1      | 2     |
| Ischaemic Heart Disease               | 11   | 9      | 20    |
| Other forms of Heart Disease          | 2    | 2      | 4     |
| Cerebrovascular Disease               | 6    | 8      | 14    |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System  | 2    | 1      | 3     |
| Influenza                             | 1    | —      | 1     |
| Pneumonia                             | 8    | 4      | 12    |
| Bronchitis and Emphysema              | 4    | 2      | 6     |
| Other diseases of Respiratory System  | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Other Diseases of Digestive System    | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System   | —    | 2      | 2     |
| Birth Injury, Difficult Labour Etc.   | 1    | 3      | 4     |
| Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality   | —    | 2      | 2     |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents               | 2    | 2      | 4     |
| All Other Accidents                   | —    | 2      | 2     |
| Suicide: and Self-Inflicted Injuries  | 2    | —      | 2     |
| All Other External Causes             | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Totals                                | 53   | 57     | 110   |

TABLE 10. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER

| Year | Male         |                     |                | Female       |                     |                |
|------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|
|      | Total Deaths | Total Cancer Deaths | Cancer of Lung | Total Deaths | Total Cancer Deaths | Cancer of Lung |
|      | 1970         | 53                  | 13             | 6            | 57                  | 13             |
| 1969 | 53           | 14                  | 2              | 62           | 9                   | 1              |

TABLE 11. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (According to Age Groups)

| Disease        | Under 1 | Age 1-4 | Age 5-14 | Age 15-24 | Age 25 & over | Totals |
|----------------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|---------------|--------|
| Measles        | 5       | 47      | 16       | —         | —             | 68     |
| Scarlet Fever  | —       | 1       | 2        | —         | —             | 3      |
| Jaundice       | —       | —       | —        | 3         | —             | 3      |
| Whooping Cough | —       | —       | 1        | —         | —             | 1      |
| Food poisoning | —       | 1       | 1        | —         | —             | 2      |
| Totals         | 5       | 49      | 20       | 3         | —             | 77     |

Information given by the County Medical Officer in respect of vaccination carried out during the year in Area 6 (comprising Swaffham & Wayland R.D.s, Swaffham U.D. and Borough of Thetford) is shown in the following Tables 12 to 17.

TABLE 12 DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION — Area 6

| PRIMARY |         |          |       | BOOSTERS |          |       |
|---------|---------|----------|-------|----------|----------|-------|
| Age 0-1 | Age 2-4 | Age 5-15 | Total | Age 1-4  | Age 5-15 | Total |
| 530     | 104     | 32       | 666   | 115      | 631      | 746   |

TABLE 13. WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION — Area 6

| PRIMARY |         |          |       | BOOSTERS |
|---------|---------|----------|-------|----------|
| Age 0-1 | Age 2-4 | Age 5-15 | Total | Under 5  |
| 522     | 98      | 17       | 637   | 157      |

TABLE 14. TETANUS IMMUNISATION – Area 6

| PRIMARY        |                |                |              | BOOSTERS       |                 |               |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Age 0-1<br>530 | Age 2-4<br>105 | Age 5-15<br>77 | Total<br>712 | Age 1-4<br>117 | Age 5-14<br>898 | Total<br>1015 |

TABLE 15. POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNISATION – Area 6

| PRIMARY        |                |                |              | BOOSTERS      |                 |              |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Age 0-1<br>530 | Age 2-4<br>106 | Age 5-14<br>30 | Total<br>666 | Age 1-4<br>86 | Age 5-15<br>803 | Total<br>889 |

TABLE 16. B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS – Area 6  
This is given at the age of 13 years to all school children who do not react to the tuberculin skin test. Number of skin tests and subsequent B.C.G. vaccinations last year is recorded.

| Number<br>Skin–Tested | Number<br>Positive | Number<br>B.C.G. Vaccinated |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 534                   | 49                 | 440                         |

TABLE 17. ENGLISH MEASLES VACCINATION – Area 6

|      | Age 0-1 | Age 2-4 | Age 5-14 | Total |
|------|---------|---------|----------|-------|
| 1969 | 140     | 191     | 153      | 484   |
| 1970 | 230     | 303     | 220      | 753   |

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1970

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report for the year 1970 on the sanitary circumstances of the District. This report is a statutory obligation and is compiled in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular No. 1/70.

### Staff

The expansion of the Borough over the past few years in all its aspects, increased the work of the Public Health Department to such an extent as to necessitate the appointment of an additional Public Health Inspector.

Mr. W. Dyke was appointed and commenced his duties on 1st. October, 1970.

### Water Supply

The South Norfolk Water Board assumed full responsibility for the Borough area water supply from the 15th March, 1970, the Thetford Borough Council having acted in a caretaking capacity since the transfer date of 1st April, 1969.

There was no shortage of water during the year and its quality was excellent.

Nine houses situated in the country on the extreme boundaries of the Borough were not served by the public supply and their water supply was taken from private boreholes and wells. Samples of water taken from these sources were submitted for bacteriological examination and all waters were found to be safe for drinking purposes.

### Bathing Station

The use of the bathing station on the River Little Ouse was continued throughout the summer months and proved a very popular amenity.

During the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government agreed that loan sanction would be available in the financial year 1970/71 to enable a start to be made on the proposed indoor swimming pool and tenders were invited.

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the district were adequate. Work on the extension of the Sewage Treatment works to deal with a 20,000 population was completed and officially opened in July.

There were three occupied properties in the district without flush toilets — two were so isolated as to have no sewer available and one, within the town area, is affected by slum clearance.

The position at December 1970 was as follows :—

|   |     |     |     |     |    |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of occupied properties with pail closets | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  |
| Number of septic tanks                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 44 |

All other properties are connected to the sewer.



**Conservancy**

Septic tanks were emptied, as required, by contract and as a free service to the occupiers. The number of cesspools emptied in this way was 31.

**Refuse Collection and Disposal**

The collection of refuse was carried out on a weekly basis and covered the whole district except for approximately six properties which, because of their extreme isolation from the collecting routes, cannot be accommodated. The collection was direct from the houses and, where possible, rear collections were made. The type of vehicles used were a Dennis Paxit Major II Refuse Collector of 22/30 cubic yards capacity, and a Karrier Ramillies 35 cubic yards Refuse Collection vehicle.

Provision was made for the collection of Trade Refuse at a fixed quarterly charge which varied with the number of bins collected from each premise .

The disposal of refuse was by controlled tipping at a pit outside the district.

**Housing**

(i) General.

The number of dwellings, including council houses, occupied in the District according to the Rate Book was 4,246 and the estimated population figure was 13,700.

457 new dwellings were erected during the year, 103 houses were built by private enterprise, whilst 354 houses were erected by the Council.

(ii) Unfit dwellings – Action under the Housing Acts.

A summary of action taken under the Housing Acts was as follows:—

|                                    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Houses demolished                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21  |
| Houses closed                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2   |
| Families displaced                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6   |
| Persons re-housed                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20  |
| Houses considered to be unfit      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 54  |
| Houses considered to be improvable | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ..  | 111 |

As a result of routine inspections and visits to investigate complaints from tenants, informal action was taken to remedy some defect or other at 68 houses, and statutory overcrowding was abated in two properties.

Detailed surveys and inspections of all houses in the Painter Street area were commenced with a view to the declaration of a Clearance Area.

(iii) Improvement Grants.

A survey of the older type housing in the district revealed that approximately 140 dwellings were worth improving and would be eligible for either the Standard or Improvement Grants. Letters were sent to the owners of these houses giving details of the grants available.

This action resulted in the increase of applicants during the year and 29 Standard Grants were approved for maximum grants totaling £7,080, whilst 7 Improvement Grants (i.e. the old Discretionary Grant) were approved for grants totalling £2,001.50p.

Inspections of houses in Abbey Green/Prospect Row were carried out with a view to the Council making an Improvement Area.



(iv) Common Lodging Houses.

There were no registered common lodging houses in the district.

Infectious Diseases

Three cases of Scarlet Fever, two of Infective Hepatitis and two of Bacillary Dysentery were notified to the Department and the usual investigations were made in an attempt to ascertain the source of infection and to stop it's spread. Specimens were submitted for examination in respect of the 'two' 'dysentery' cases and from nine of their contacts. Two members of one family were confirmed as Salmonella Enteritidis and investigations pointed strongly towards the infection being picked up whilst the family were on holiday in Majorca.

Enquiries were made into an outbreak of diarrhoea and sickness amongst staff and children from a local school. Specimens from all the kitchen staff and the patients were submitted for examination but organisms of dysentery and enteric groups were not found. The outbreak lasted over a period of three weeks then quickly subsided.

Verminous and Filthy Premises

7 premises found to be infested with bugs, fleas were disinfested and cleansed. One filthy house was disinfected and cleansed.

Moveable Dwellings—Caravans

No site licences were granted during the year under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

At the Annual Survey of caravans and tents carried out in all districts of Norfolk during August week, there were found in Thetford to be 6 caravans used in connection with works of Building and Engineering Construction., 2 unauthorised tents and 1 caravan at Two Mile Bottom Common.

Persons attempting to use common lands in the districts for stationing caravans and tents were asked to move sometimes with the co-operation of the Police.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act—1963

All such premises are required by the Act to be registered with the Local Authority unless they are premises in which only close relatives of the occupier's family are employed or they are mainly factory premises. The Act together with the many Regulations made thereunder, lays down standards for the health, safety, welfare, working conditions and facilities for persons employed in such premises. Contraventions of the legislation were informally dealt with.

The following tables have been abstracted from the Annual Return required under Section 60 by the Ministry of Labour:—

Registrations and General Inspections

| Class of premises                                    | Number of premises newly registered during the year | Total number of registered premises at end of year | Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year |
|--|---|--|--|
| Offices  | 11  | 54   | 32   |
| Retail Shops   | 9   | 84   | 71   |
| Wholesale shops, warehouses                          | —   | 7  | 7  |
| Catering establishments open to the public, canteens | —   | 12   | 12   |
| Fuel Storage Depots                                  | —   | 4  | 2  |

## Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

| Class of Workplace                         | Number of Persons employed |
|--|----------------------------|
| Offices                                    | 273                        |
| Retail Shops                               | 333                        |
| Wholesale departments, warehouses          | 85                         |
| Catering establishments open to the public | 69                         |
| Canteens                                   | 5                          |
| Fuel storage depots                        | 5                          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                               | <b>770</b>                 |
| <b>Total Males</b>                         | <b>345</b>                 |
| <b>Total Females</b>                       | <b>425</b>                 |

Number of Accidents notified and investigated:— 5

## Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

This Act requires every Local Authority to take such steps as may be necessary to secure as far as practicable that their district is kept free from rats and mice. In addition to dealing with complaints, surveys and treatments of areas were made including farmland, business premises, factories, sewers and all Council-owned premises. Dwellinghouses were treated free of charge, but business premises were charged on a time plus material basis. Included in the Operator's duties was the destruction of wasp's nests, moles and rabbits on Council owned land only and disinfestation work.

The following extract is taken from the Annual Report made to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:—

| Properties other than Sewers   | Type of Property |              |
|--|------------------|--------------|
|  | Non-agricultural | Agricultural |
| 1. Number of Properties in the district  | 5,773            | 13           |
| 2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification | 225              | —            |
| (b) Number infested by (i) Rats  | 103              | —            |
| (ii) Mice  | 6                | —            |
| 3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats/mice for reasons other than notification  | 4,308            | 13           |
| (b) Number infested by (i) Rats  | 46               | 9            |
| (ii) Mice  | —                | —            |

Sewers: Infestations found in the Sewerage System on two Housing Schemes were treated and cleared.

## Supervision of Food Supplies and Premises

(a) Milk Distribution

The number of retail distributors on the register at the end of the year was fourteen—twelve of these sold a few bottles of milk from shops only. A small amount of milk was retailed by dairymen situated in neighbouring Authority districts.

(b) Inspection of Meat and other Foods

A considerable quantity of food was examined in the shops which resulted in the following list of meat and other foods being condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

|                         |     |     |     |     |     |     |                                |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------------|
| Tomato Puree            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1.032 x 5 kilo cans (104 cwts) |
| Fresh Meat              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 523 lbs                        |
| Fish                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 283 lbs                        |
| Cooked Ham              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 134 lbs                        |
| Vegetables              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 284 tins                       |
| Fruit                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 204 tins                       |
| Various other tin foods | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 134 tins                       |
| Shelled Walnuts         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 packets                     |

Reasons for condemnation were blown, damaged, punctured, rusting and leaking seams in cans and tins; decomposition, moulds.

Frozen Foods condemned after breakdown of Refrigerator Plant:—

|                    |     |     |     |     |     |     |             |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Fish               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 321 packets |
| Chicken Portions   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 packets   |
| Various Vegetables | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 311 Packets |
| Braised Beef       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 91 packets  |
| Beefburgers        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 packets  |
| Rissoles           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 40 packets  |
| Mousse             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 232 packets |
| Pastry             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 55 packets  |
| Sponges            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25          |
| Meat Pies          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 94          |
| Chickens           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 77          |

(c) Meat Inspection

Only intermittent use was made of the private slaughterhouse until it was finally closed on the 12th October, 1970.

To maintain 100% post mortem inspection service 50 visits were made to the slaughterhouse.

The general quality of the animals slaughtered was good. Condemnation was mostly confined to offals. Thorough examination of every carcase was made but no cases of cysticerous Bovis or lesions of tuberculosis were found amongst any animals slaughtered. The reasons for condemnation were:— abscesses, flukes, cirrhosis, milk spot, congestion and pericarditis.



The following table gives details of animals killed, together with information regarding numbers and percentages affected by disease:—

|  | Cattle<br>excluding<br>Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs             | Horses |
|--|-----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------------------|--------|
| Number killed  | 46<br>(89)                  | -    | -      | -                     | 12<br>(15)       | -      |
| Number inspected   | 46<br>(89)                  | -    | -      | -                     | 12<br>(15)       | -      |
| All Diseases except Tubercu-<br>losis and Cysticerci<br>Whole carcasses condemned                          | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -                | -      |
| Carcases of which some part<br>or organ was condemned  | 5<br>(22)                   | -    | -      | -                     | 2<br>(3)         | -      |
| Percentage of the number<br>inspected affected with<br>disease other than tuber-<br>culosis and cysticerci | 10.8%<br>(24.7%)            | -    | -      | -                     | 16.6%<br>(20.0%) | -      |
| Tuberculosis only<br>Whole carcasses condemned   | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -                | -      |
| Carcases of which some part<br>or organ was condemned  | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -                | -      |
| Percentage of the number<br>inspected affected with<br>tuberculosis  | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -                | -      |
| Cysticercosis<br>Carcases of which some<br>part or organ was con-<br>demned                                | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -                | -      |
| Carcases submitted to treat-<br>ment by refrigeration  | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -                | -      |
| Generalised and totally<br>condemned   | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -                | -      |

Figures in brackets relate to 1969

| All diseases except Tuberculosis<br>and Cysticerci |      | Tuberculosis Only |      |
|--|------|-------------------|------|
| Offal  | Meat | Offal             | Meat |
| 136 lbs<br>(243lbs)                                | -    | -                 | -    |

Figures in brackets relate to 1969

(d) Five licences were issued to suitable persons authorising them to slaughter animals by approved methods of stunning. None authorised the holder to slaughter horses.

(e) Food Premises

Routine inspections were made at all the food premises in the district and where necessary advice was given and, in some cases, informal notices served requesting repairs or alterations to keep premises up to the standards required by the Hygiene Regulations.

Since the housing estates have reached sizeable proportions under the G.L.C. expansion scheme a large number of mobile shops selling fish and chips, wet fish, ice-cream, vegetables, fruit and confectionery etc. have been operating in the area. Inspection of these vehicles revealed contraventions of the Hygiene Regulations which were dealt with by informal action.

The following complaints concerning food purchased from shops in the district were investigated and dealt with:—

- Sandy material in canned gooseberries
- Piece of wood in side of small loaf of bread
- Mal odour from packet of wafer biscuits — from wrapper
- Mites in dried baby food — found to originate from other food in home pantry
- Mal odour from meat pie
- Alleged dirt smear in milk bottle
- Fly blows on piece of ham — food preparation room fly-proofed
- Maggot on unwrapped bacon — refrigerated display counter provided in shop
- Alleged glass in beer bottle
- Maggot in block of nut chocolate

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 was as follows:—

- 1. For the purpose of "the preparation of fish by any process of cooking, for sale for human consumption" ..... 2
- 2. For the purpose of "the sale of Ice - Cream" ..... 28
- 3. For the purpose of "the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled, or preserved food intended for sale for human consumption including the preparation of meat by any process of cooking" ..... 10

The number of food premises in the area by type of business is as follows (Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960):—

| Type of Premises           | Number | Complying with Regulation 16 | To which Reg. 19 applies | Complying with Reg. 19 |
|----------------------------|--------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Cafes/Restaurants/Snacks   | 17     | 17                           | 17                       | 17                     |
| Greengrocers/Grocers       | 22     | 22                           | 22                       | 22                     |
| Confectionery, Cakes, etc. | 17     | 17                           | 17                       | 17                     |
| Public Houses              | 18     | 18                           | 18                       | 18                     |
| Licenced Clubs             | 3      | 3                            | 3                        | 3                      |
| Fish Shops                 | 2      | 2                            | 2                        | 2                      |
| Bakehouses                 | 2      | 2                            | 2                        | 2                      |
| General Stores             | 7      | 7                            | 7                        | 7                      |
| Butchers Shops             | 10     | 10                           | 10                       | 10                     |
| Food Factories             | 3      | 3                            | 3                        | 3                      |
| Factory Canteens           | 22     | 22                           | 22                       | 22                     |
| School Kitchens            | 10     | 10                           | 10                       | 10                     |
| Cold Storage Depot         | 1      | 1                            | —                        | —                      |
| Food Warehouses            | 6      | 6                            | —                        | —                      |



(f) Ice-Cream

There were 28 premises registered in accordance with Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of Ice-cream. In all cases, the Ice-cream was sold as wrapped. A number of Ice-cream vans visit the town every day selling soft Ice-cream. Samples were submitted for bacteriological examination — 15 were returned as Grade I and 3 as Grade II.

(g) The Meat (Sterilization) Regulations, 1969.

The Cold Store received throughout the year imported consignments of beef, pig, sheep and horse lungs, livers, spleens, tongue roots, trimmings and horse, kangaroo, rabbit meat and whalemeat which was unfit for human consumption, and stored it pending delivery to a Pet Foods factory for sterilization and processing.

Under the above Regulations, notification was received from the Port Health Authority prior to delivery from the docks and supervision was maintained on the unloading, delivery, marking, storage and release at the Cold Store. Approximately 2,500 tons were notified by Port Authorities and received in Thetford.

(h) Imported Food Regulations, 1968

Consignments of imported edible frozen beef and prawns were taken into the Cold Store from various docks. Notifications were received from Port Health Authorities giving details of such commodities when they were released from the docks in sealed containers without prior inspection. Representative samples were taken from each consignment and forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. When satisfactory results were obtained the goods were released for human consumption. 1½cwts of beef were condemned (decomposition). 10,800 bags imported pea beans were received at the Canning Factory.

(i) Export Certificates (Food)

Eight Certificates of Health were given in respect of approximately 30 tons of bacon destined for export to Singapore. The product was inspected during the various states of preparation, handling and packing prior to the issue of certificates.

**FACTORIES ACT, 1961 — Part 1 of the Act**

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including the inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

| Premises   | Number on Register | Number of   |                 |                      |
|--|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|  |                    | Inspections | Written notices | Occupiers prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.                   | 1                  | 3*          | 1               | -                    |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority                     | 95                 | 118*        | 4               | -                    |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (Excluding out-workers premises) | 44                 | 56*         | 10              | -                    |
| Total  | 140                | 177*        | 15              | -                    |

\*The figures given here are much less than the actual number of visits because those factories, which are also food premises, received many visits during the year, although they were not made primarily under the Factories Act. Minor infringements were dealt with informally.

**FACTORIES ACT**  
**Part 1 of the Act (continued)**

| Particulars   | Number of cases in which defects were found |          |                    |                    | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|---|---|----------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
|   | Found                                       | Remedied | Referred           |                    |   |
|   |   |          | To H. M. Inspector | By H. M. Inspector |   |
| Want of cleanliness   | 5   | 5        | -                  | -                  | -   |
| Overcrowding  | -   | -        | -                  | -                  | -   |
| Unreasonable temperature  | -   | -        | -                  | -                  | -   |
| Inadequate ventilation  | -   | -        | -                  | -                  | -   |
| Ineffective drainage of floors  | -   | -        | -                  | -                  | -   |
| Sanitary Conveniences   |   |          |                    |                    |   |
| (a) Insufficient  | 9   | 9        | -                  | -                  | -   |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective   | 4   | 4        | -                  | -                  | -   |
| (c) For separate sexes  | -   | -        | -                  | -                  | -   |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) | -   | -        | -                  | -                  | -   |
| Total   | 18  | 18       | -                  | -                  | -   |

**Part VIII of the Act**  
**Outwork**  
**(Sections 110 and 111)**

| Nature of Work              | No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) | No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council | No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists | No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises | Notices served | Prosecutions |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|--|----------------|--------------|
| Wearing apparel making etc. | 2   | -   | -   | -  | -              | -            |
| Cleaning and washing        | -   | -   | -   | -  | -              | -            |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>2</b>  | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b>   | <b>-</b>       | <b>-</b>     |

## **Clean Air Acts**

As required by Section 3 of the act applications for "Prior Approval" were submitted to the local authority where persons wished to install or alter boiler/furnace plant. Nine such applications were received and the proposed installations were vetted to ensure that they would operate efficiently without causing a nuisance. The height of the chimney stacks necessary to properly disperse the products of combustion were calculated and agreed with the firms concerned.

Although a number of modifications were made to plant and equipment in the Airscrew Weyroc factory at the back end of 1969, a nuisance was still arising from dust emissions, but to a lesser extent. Further works were carried out during 1970 when new dust handling plant was installed; a screened loading bay erected for the loading of sawdust into lorries for transport to disposal sites; board trimming material was diverted, thereby reducing the amount of wood based material to be burned in the furnace plant which consequently reduced the risk of more smoke and grit emission. Further emissions of dust to the factory roof were controlled with modifications and adjustments to the surface material drying plant. These measures proved successful and, except for the odd occasion when defects occurred in the bag filters, no further complaints were received from other factories nearby.

A nuisance caused by a white dust emission from the Baxter Laboratories factory was identified as a starch dust used in the process of producing rubber gloves. The fitting of extra heavy filters to the plant abated the nuisance.

## **Other Matters**

### **(i) Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare) Provisions Act, 1956.**

Visits of inspections were made at 13 agricultural properties to ensure that employees were provided with satisfactory sanitary accommodation. In general, the farms are small and employees are able to use the accommodation at the farm buildings.

### **(ii) Shop Acts 1950**

Routine inspections have been made to ensure that shops comply with the legislation relating to suitable ventilation, lighting, seating, welfare, sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, etc.

The Local Authority being a Borough Council are also responsible for the Shop Hours of Closing provisions and your Public Health Inspector is the appointed Shops Act Inspector for this purpose. This entails visits out of normal working hours, during the evening up to 10 pm and also Sunday surveys of the area.

### **(iii) Pet Animals Act 1951**

One licence was granted under this Act during the year.

### **(iv) Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964**

Nine such dealers were registered under the Act and visits were made to all premises for inspection and to ascertain that records were kept as required by legislation and to check stock held against the recorded details.

## **Noise Abatement Act, 1960**

Eleven noise nuisances were abated by informal action during the year — three arose from compressors; four concerned noise from fans; two were caused by pneumatic drills which, when muffled, were bearable; and two arose from the use of vehicle chimes late at night.

## **Anti-litter Campaign**

A poster and publicity campaign was operated during the summer months including sticker stamps on all letters sent out locally.

In conclusion, I would like to express appreciation and thanks to Members of the Council for their continued support and consideration and to the Medical Officer and all other members of the staff for their assistance and co-operation.

**R. C. R. Robinson,**  
Chief Public Health Inspector.









